No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/10/22 : LOC-HAK-550-1-62-1

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DOS Review Completed.

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OCTOBER 10, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

KIDNAPERS GO TO PANAMA: FOLLOWING MEXICO'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE DOMINICAN TERRORISTS WHO HELD HOSTAGES FOR NEARLY TWO WEEKS IN SANTO DOMINGO, THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFERED AND THE KIDNAPERS ACCEPTED ASYLUM IN PANAMA. THEY FLEW THERE LAST EVENING ON A DOMINICAN FLAG AIRCRAFT AFTER RELEASING THEIR HOSTAGES UNHARMED.

PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES' MEETING WITH U.S. M-BASSADOR: DURING A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SCOTT ON OCTOBER 7, PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES REAFFIRMED CONTINUED PORTUGUESE ADHERENCE TO NATO, ATTRIBUTED REPORTS OF OPPOSITION IN HIS GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN NATO TO UNFOUNDED RUMORS, PLEADED FOR U.S. OBJECTIVITY IN JUDGING THE NEW GOVERNMENT, AND URGED U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO INCREASE AMERICAN CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN PORTUGAL.

IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR SCOTT'S EXPRESSION OF U.S. PLEASURE AT THE REAFFIRMATION BY THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF PORTUGAL'S INTENTION TO ABIDE BY ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS -- AND THEIR SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO NATO IN THIS CONTEXT -- GONCALVES SAID THAT THE U.S. SHOULD HAVE NO FEAR OF ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS LINE, SINCE ADHERENCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE OLD REGIME IS A FUNDAMENTAL POINT OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S PROGRAM. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT NO CREDIT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO RUMORS THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WHO QUESTION THE VALUE OF PORTUGAL'S REMAINING A PART OF NATO.

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AMBASSADOR SCOTT TOLD GONCALVES THAT THE U.S. IS SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDERING THE REQUESTS FOR LARGE-SCALE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES AND FINANCE MINISTER LOPEZ AND HOPES TO BE FORTHCOMING. GONCALVES EXPRESSED FULL COMPREHENSION OF CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS WHEN THE AMBASSADOR CAUTIONED THAT, GIVEN THE CLIMATE IN CONGRESS CONCERNING FOREIGN AID, THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE U.S. CAN AT THIS POINT MAKE NO SPECIFIC GUARANTEES AS TO LEVELS OR KINDS OF ASSISTANCE.

KOSYGIN ON GROMYKO'S TALKS AT THE WHITE HOUSE: DURING A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR STOESSEL ON OCTOBER 4, PREMIER KOSYGIN SAID THAT HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAD STUDIED REPORTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU AND HAD BEEN PLEASED AND REASSURED BY THEM. KOSYGIN ADDED THAT THE SOVIETS APPRECIATED THE FACT THAT YOU DEVOTED SO MUCH TIME TO CONVERSATIONS WITH GROMYKO, WHICH WERE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT SINCE THEY REPRESENTED THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT. KOSYGIN SAID YOU SEEMED IN THE DISCUSSIONS TO WISH TO CONTINUE THE POLICY OF DETENTE AND NORMALIZATION; HE SAID THIS WAS GOOD AND EMPHASIZED THAT YOUR STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY NOTED.

ARGENTINE TERRORISTS PROPOSE "TRUCE": THE MARXIST PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (RP) HAS PROPOSED A TRUCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN RETURN FOR LEGAL RECOGNITION, REPEAL OF "REPRESSIVE" LEGISLATION (ANTITERRORIST), AND RELEASE OF ALL "POLITICAL" PRISONERS. THE PETITION CAME JUST BEFORE TUESDAY'S MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT PERON AND KEY POLITICAL LEADERS FROM VIRTUALLY ALL SECTORS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRY, AND APPARENTLY WAS TIMED TO CAUSE FURTHER POLITICAL DISSENSION BETWEEN THE PERONISTS AND OPPOSITION PARTIES. SEVERAL POLITICAL LEADERS ARE SYMPATHETIC TO SOME OF THE GUERRILLA DEMANDS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN CRITICIZED FOR ITS SANCTION OF RIGHTWING DEATH SQUADS, NEW PENAL REFORM LAW, AND THE CLOSING OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. HOWEVER, WITH EXTREMIST VIOLENCE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE CONCILIATORY. ELEMENTS WITHIN THE MILITARY ARE PRESSING FOR STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST THE TERRORISTS AND PRESIDENT PERON HAS PROMISED TO MOVE AHEAD VIGOROUSLY WITH ANTITERRORIST MEASURES.

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